Paul Celan

LOVESONG

Translated from the Romanian by
Edouard Roditi &
Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

Alyscamps Press, Paris
Karl Orend, Publisher

LOVESONG

Paul Celan

LOVESONG

Translated from the Romanian by
Edouard Roditi &
Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

Alyscamps Press, Paris
Karl Orend, Publisher

LOVESONG
(Cântec de dragoste)

Cântec de dragoste

Când vor începe şi pentru tine nopțile dimineața
Ochii noştri fosforescenți vor coborî din pereți, nişte nuci sunătoare,
Te vei juca cu ele şi se va revărsa un val prin fereastră,
Unicul nostru naufragiu,
podea străvezie prin care vom privi camera goală de sub camera noastră;
O vei mobila cu nucile tale şi-ți voi pune părul perdea la fereastră,
Va veni cineva şi-n sfârşit va fi închiriată,
Ne vom întoarce sus să ne-necăm acasă.

-- Paul Celan

Lovesong

When at daybreak the nights for you commence
our phosphorous eyeballs will clamber down the walls, strewing walnuts,
You will toss them aloft and an ocean wave will come coursing in through the window.
Through the translucent floor--our singular shipwreck--we will gaze into the empty room below;
With your walnuts you will furnish it, and for curtains for the windows I will hang your flowing hair,
Someone will arrive, and finally, it will be rented.
Upstairs, we'll return, to drown alone at home.

-- Paul Celan

Translated by Edouard Roditi and Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

LOVESONG by Paul Celan, Translated from the Romanian by Edouard Roditi & Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno, was published by Alyscamps Press, Paris, on January first 2020, in a limited edition of 25 copies signed by the publisher, as a New Year gift to friends of Alyscamps Press.

This is copy_____.